(b) if so, how many days this deployment has been till date; and

(c) the average daily additional expenditure incurred for effecting/ retaining this deployment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no improvement in the cross-border terrorism abetted by Pakistan. Accordingly, the Government of India have decided that in order to meet any exigencies, it would be in the interest of the nation to continue the deployment of troops, which started from 19.12.2001, on the border. The financial implications of the on-going deployment of the Armed forces can be properly assessed only after the moblisation is over.

Tracing 54 POWs in Pakistani Jails

3246. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been approached by the kith and kin of POWs to appoint an independent investigative agency to trace 54 POWs. who had been held captive in Pakistani jails since 1971 war;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what constructive steps are being taken to trace them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The relatives of Indian POWs believed to be in Pakistani jails have suggested to the Government that all possible steps be considered for ensuring location, release and repatriation of these POWs.

(b) and (c) Government has taken all possible steps including consistently taking up the issue of release and repatriation of missing Indian Defence Personnel with the Government of Pakistan at all levels. The Government of Pakistan has, however, never acknowledged their presence in its custody. Government would continue to take up the issue with Pakistan Government to secure their early release and repatriation.

Takeover of immigration check-posts

3247. SHRI RUMANDLA .RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to takeover all immigration check-posts from the States in a phased manner;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had taken this decision following review of security measures after the attack on Parliament House;

(c) whether there are 60 such check-posts in the country, of them 19 are at the airports, 30 road check-posts are on the border towns and 16 at the ports; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision for taking over the immigration check-posts will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a)The Union Government has decided to take over 23 Immigration Check posts in the country which handle about 95 per cent of International Traffic.

(b) No, Sir. The decision was taken before the attack on Parliament;

(c) There are 67 operational immigration check posts of which 21 are airports, 30 are land check posts and 16 are sea ports.

(d) The final decision to take over 23 immigration check posts has already been taken.

Condition of Roads in Delhi

3248. SHRIBHAGATRAMMANHAR:
SHRIRAJUPARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bad roads is the single biggest reasons for the loss of crores of rupees each day because of higher cost of vehicle maintenance and fuel consumption;

(b) if so, what steps Government is contemplating to lay good roads throughout the National Capital Territory of Delhi in the near future; and

(c) whether Delhi Police will identify bad roads in NCT and take appropriate steps for layng of these road for proper and smooth traffic flow and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The poor condition of roads does lead to increase in the operational cost of vehicles. However, the quantum of increase depends on several factors like condition of road and type of vehicles etc.